GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3494
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
FLEET REPLACEMENT AND EXPANSION PROGRAMME
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have started their fleet replacement and expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the airbus replaced/leased out so far and those proposed to be replaced and leased out under the programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Both the airlines are in the process of inducting new aircraft in their fleet. Air India has signed a purchase agreement with M/s Boeing for the purchase of 68 aircraft comprising 8X B777-200LR, 15X B777-300ER and 27X B787-8 for Air India and 18 X B737-800W for Air India Charters Limited (a subsidiary of Air India). The deliveries of 50 Aircraft to Air India Limited are scheduled between June, 2007 and October, 2011 and for 18 aircraft by Air India Charters Limited between December, 2006 and October, 2009. Air India Charters Limited has already taken the delivery of six B737-800W aircraft. It is proposed to phase out the old A310 and B747-300 aircraft in Air India`s fleet and also return all the leased aircraft over a period of time.

Indian Airlines Limited (IAL) has signed an agreement with M/s Airbus Industries and CFM International for procurement of 43 Airbus aircraft, comprising 19 A-319, 4 A-320 and 20 A 321. The delivery period of these aircraft is scheduled between October, 2006 to March, 2010. Indian Airlines has already taken delivery of one A319 aircraft. The above fleet expansion programme also envisages the phase out of 3 A300 and 11 B737-200 aircraft(operated by Alliance Air Services Ltd.)from passenger operations, on induction of new aircraft.

In order to cater for route expansion and pending induction of new aircraft, Air India and its subsidiary have inducted 22 A310, 7 B747-400, 4 B777-200, 7 B737-800, 2 B767-300ER, 1 B757-200ER and 1 A310-300 aircraft on lease. Out of these 5 A310-300 aircraft and 4 B747-400 aircraft were returned to their lessors after completion of lease period. Two more leased A310-300 are undergoing re-delivery checks and will be returned to lessors shortly.

Indian Airlines and its subsidiary have inducted in its fleet 25 A320, 5 A319, 2 A330-200 and 4 ATRs on lease.